



# Terms of Reference (ToR) of the WSAVA Scientific Committee

Last update: September, 2019

## Mission & Vision

**Vision:** WSAVA members receive the highest quality evidence-based scientific and educational offerings.

**Mission:** The SC aims to ensure that all WSAVA clinical guidance and educational offerings are grounded in the best possible evidence-based science by providing expert peer review to the Association.

## Composition

The WSAVA will have a standing Scientific Committee, which will have a Chair or Co-Chairs.

- 🐾 The makeup of the committee will be discipline-based to cover the breadth of activity undertaken by the Association; and with consideration of appropriate geographical representation.
- 🐾 Committee members will be regarded as having globally-recognized scientific expertise in a particular discipline. Committee members may be affiliated to an academic institution, specialist practice or laboratory, and would normally hold higher qualifications (e.g. a recognized specialist diploma and/or PhD), and/or have a reputation for research or advanced clinical practice.
- 🐾 Employees of the veterinary industry will not normally serve on the SC.

There will be a call for committee members according to the guidelines of the WSAVA LNC. A short job description will be written for each open SC position. The Committee Co-Chairs may also identify committee members with appropriate expertise and encourage them to apply for through the WSAVA LNC. The SC Co-Chairs will work closely with the LNC in order to identify the members who best fit the SC needs.

Committee members will serve a term of 3-years with possible extension for a second term. The Committee Chair (or co-Chairs) will serve a term of 3-years with possible extension for a second term.

The Committee Chair/Co-Chairs should attend the annual Congress and actively participate in required events (e.g. committee forum) and session chairing/moderating.

Areas of appropriate veterinary scientific expertise applicable to companion animals may include (but are not necessarily restricted to):





- 🐾 Internal medicine (including specialties such as cardiology, neurology, oncology, and special interest areas)
- 🐾 Surgery (including special interest areas)
- 🐾 Anaesthesia/analgesia
- 🐾 Dermatology
- 🐾 Diagnostic imaging
- 🐾 Epidemiology
- 🐾 Microbiology, parasitology and immunology
- 🐾 Pathology and clinical pathology
- 🐾 Reproduction

## Remit

The specific tasks of the committee will be divided into those related to **general scientific activity** and those related to **scientific activity pertaining to the annual congress**. Where co-Chairs of the SC are appointed, each of the co-Chairs may take responsibility for one of these activities:

### General Scientific Activity

- 🐾 To undertake pro-active horizon scanning for scientific developments of relevance to the members of the Association. To create timely information summaries on such developments, which can be rapidly disseminated to the membership. Such developments might include, for example, the outbreak of a novel infectious disease or introduction of a novel therapeutic.
- 🐾 To provide expert review of new proposals from WSAVA committees and project groups (e.g. guidelines, position statements and other outputs) with recommendations to the EB based on evaluation of such proposals.
- 🐾 To provide expert review of requests for WSAVA endorsement of guidelines or statements coming from other Associations.
- 🐾 To work with the WSAVA Foundation and AFSCAN to review annual applications for clinical research funding under the AFSCAN programme, and to score those applications on the basis of scientific merit.
- 🐾 To identify appropriate candidates for the WSAVA Scientific Achievement Award and make proposals for this award annually to the EB, including writing the citation for award winners.

### Congress-Related Scientific Activity

- 🐾 To design the annual Congress scientific programme. This includes:
  - Selection of individual speakers using international networks in their discipline while making sure and that the quality of proposed lectures and speakers is consistent with WSAVA standards
  - Ensuring adequate balance between subjects
  - Selection of the State-of-the-Art Lecturers for each Congress
  - Close collaboration with and assistance to the LHC and their scientific program Chair for design of the sessions delegated to them, and critical review of the program submitted by the LHC.

#### WSAVA Secretariat Office

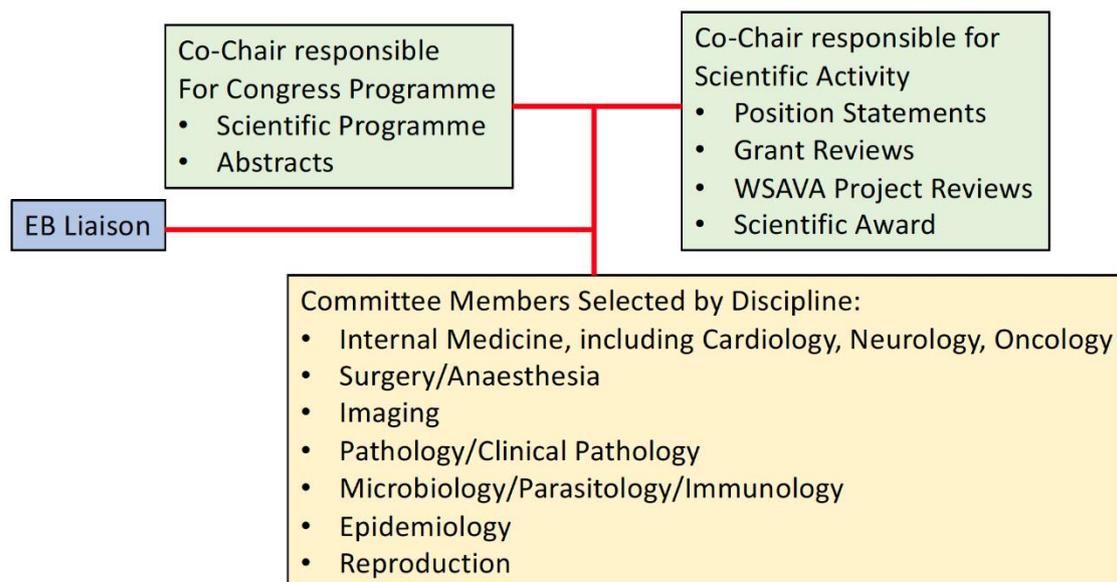
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- Close collaboration with Chairs/Co-Chairs of WSAVA standing committees in the design of their allotted sessions.
- Close collaboration with other partners such as affiliated societies and industry who meet the requirements for organizing a session in the main programme

Importantly, the SC is ultimately responsible for the whole scientific content of the annual Congress.

- 🐾 To review scientific abstracts submitted for (poster) presentation at the annual Congress for ethical acceptability and scientific validity. Abstracts will be shared amongst the Committee members on the basis of discipline for review and recommendation (accept or reject). An on-line review system will be implemented for this purpose.
- 🐾 To contribute to the moderator/session Chair grid. When committee members attend the annual Congress, they are expected to contribute as session moderator/Chair for appropriate lecture streams.



Each Committee Member participates in the work of the committee as directed by the Co-chairs:

- Co-ordinating a congress stream in their discipline
- Equal share in reviewing abstracts [one member may be delegated to co-ordinate]
- Equal share in reviewing grants and projects [as designated]
- All to contribute to Scientific Award selection
- Review position statements according to expertise

